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PEOPLE

Most of the country's black majority are members of the Swazi clans forming the tribe which gives Swaziland its name. There are about half a million inhabitants of which an estimated 60 per cent are Christians; most of the remainder practice traditional African religions.

GEOGRAPHY

Swaziland is a small, land-locked country of slightly more than 17,000 square kilometres surrounded on three sides by South Africa and on the remaining side by Mozambique. Its terrain is varied with large areas suitable for a variety of agriculture. There is also a variety of mineral deposits. The climate ranges from the tropical "Middleveld" area which has a rainy season from October to March to the mountainous areas which may experience frost. The "Highveld" has a temperate climate with an average temperature of 22° Celsius.

HISTORY

Swaziland obtained independence from Britain in 1968 with a constitution that provides for a king as head of state. The Swazis emerged as a distinct tribe in the early 19th century apart from the main body of Bantu migrants who had settled in southern Africa in the 18th century. The first formal Swazi contact with the British came in the 1840s when the Swazi king requested British help in establishing peace with the Zulus with whom the Swazis had been in conflict for many years.

In 1881 the British and Transvaal governments guaranteed the independence of Swaziland and established the northern and southern borders. In 1888 British and Boer settlers and prospectors were allowed to settle in the area by the Swazi king. In 1890 a provisional government representing the British, the South African Republic and the Swazis was set up. This did not last and in 1894 South Africa assumed administrative control of Swaziland. After the Boer War, Britain administered Swaziland as a "protectorate".

In 1963 Swaziland's first constitution provided for an elected legislative council and an executive council. In 1973 the constitution which had established Swaziland's independence in 1968 was suspended and the king has become the sole ruler.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the basis of Swaziland's economy and provides almost 80 per cent of the population with income and subsistence. Swaziland's varied geographic regions have permitted development of a diverse agricultural sector which contributes almost 75 per cent of total export earnings. Sugar, citrus fruits, cotton, rice and maize are the main agricultural produce. Mineral resources abound, particularly asbestos and coal.

The main exports are sugar, wood pulp, iron ore and asbestos. Fluctuations in sugar prices can severely affect the country's foreign exchange earnings. The economy is highly polarized between a South-African-dominated modern sector and a less prosperous, rural traditional sector which involves most of the population.

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

Since Swaziland became independent, CIDA's development assistance has been mainly in the areas of agriculture, education and management training. Some projects place particular emphasis on improving the quality of life in rural areas. CIDA has been involved since 1975 in a rural water supply program. The second phase of this project, which began in 1980, provides for a contribution of \$4.4 million in grant funds for the provision of technical assistance, personnel and training. The goal of these projects is the provision of potable water to 75,000 rural villagers by December 1985. A daily development project that has been underway since 1976 is helping Swaziland become self-sufficient in milk production. Assistance to post-secondary training facilities is continuing.

Some recently completed CIDA-assisted projects include: the provision of \$1.1 million in a 12-year period towards a program of training awards to assist Swaziland to develop senior administrators; a \$160,000 contribution in a three-year period to a geochemical study that assisted Swaziland's Geological Survey and Mines Department to assess the country's mineral resources; and a \$1 million contribution over five years for the provision of Canadian advisers and training awards for Swazis which helped the Swaziland Treasury Department strengthen its administrative capabilities and improve the country's planning and budgeting facility.

In addition to these government-sponsored initiatives, several Canadian-based voluntary organizations have also been active in Swaziland for many years working on a variety of projects.

Since 1968, the Canadian government--through CIDA--has contributed approximately \$10 million in development assistance to Swaziland.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

The main emphasis of CIDA's current bilateral program in Swaziland is on rural development and assisting Swaziland to expand its training facilities.

Some current projects include:

Dairy production - \$3.9 million

To assist Swaziland to develop a self-sustaining dairy industry based on local milk production with a view to an export industry. Canada is providing expertise, dairy cattle, equipment, training awards.

University College Phase III - \$2.6 million

Canada is providing advice, training awards and financing for the construction of this institution which will improve the facilities and teaching standards at the University College.

Rural water Phase II - \$4.4 million

This recently-begun five-year project, through the provision of Canadian advisers and training of Swazis, is to improve clean water to 45,000 rural villagers.

Mission Administered Funds (MAF)

This \$25,000 annual fund for small projects in Swaziland is administered through the Canadian High Commission in Pretoria. The projects, usually initiated by community groups and voluntary organizations, provide economic, technical or social development assistance. No project may receive more than \$25,000 in support from this fund. Some MAF-assisted projects in Swaziland have included a contribution of \$2,299 to Inqwenpisana Primary School to provide facilities for the preparation of noon meals, \$1,526 to Mater Dolorosa Primary School to improve the teaching of agriculture, and \$3,053 to Eric Rosenberg School for the establishment of a vegetable garden for both practical agricultural experience and the production of fresh produce for consumption by the students.

MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

Among the United Nations and other multilateral agencies active in Swaziland to which CIDA contributes funds are the African Development Fund, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. In addition, CIDA provides support to the Institute of Development Management which has established educational facilities for public servants in Swaziland and neighboring Botswana and Lesotho.

ASSISTANCE FROM CIDA'S SPECIAL PROGRAMS BRANCH

The assistance channels of the Special Programs Branch involve direct participation of Canadians in efforts to promote self-reliance and meet basic human needs in developing countries.

Swaziland is currently receiving development assistance through the following programs of CIDA's Special Programs Branch:

Non-Governmental Organizations Division (NGO)

CIDA is currently funding seven projects in Swaziland initiated by Canadian voluntary organizations for a total CIDA contribution of \$56,913. The projects include a self-help and rehabilitation program operated by Canadian Lutheran World Relief and various programs operated by the Unitarian Service Committee including an industrial training centre, a school of appropriate farm technology and a child rehabilitation centre.

Institutional Cooperation and Development Services Division (ICDS)

CIDA is currently funding a project in Swaziland under this program for a total CIDA contribution of \$348,280. The project is being undertaken by Brandon University and involves upgrading the qualifications of secondary school teachers.

Industrial Cooperation Division (ICD)

To date, this CIDA program has sponsored a \$50,000 feasibility study for a resort complex in Swaziland in cooperation with a private company.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Official name	Kingdom of Swaziland
Capital	Mbabane
Area	17,363 sq. km.
Population (1980)	547,000
Population density	31.5 people per sq. km.
Population growth rate (1970-79)	2.82%
Official languages	Siswati and English
Significant dates	
1903	Britain begins to administer Swaziland as a "protectorate".
1968	Swaziland becomes independent.
1973	The constitution is suspended and the king becomes sole ruler.
Life expectancy at birth (1979)	n.a.
Infant mortality rate (age 0-1)	168 per 1,000 live births
Daily per capita calorie supply as percentage of requirement (1977)	n.a.
Percentage of population with access to safe water (1975)	n.a.
Adult literacy rate	30%

Currency	Lilangeni	
GNP per capita (1979)	U.S. \$650	
Inflation rate (1979)	16.4%	
Percentage of labor force in:		
agriculture	75%	
industry	n.a.	
services	n.a.	
Main exports	Sugar, woodpulp	
Exports to Canada (1980)	Basic hardware	\$ 38,000
	Foods and materials	
	for foods	\$ 21,000
	Inedible end products	\$ 6,000
	Other	\$ 32,000
	<u>Total*</u>	<u>\$ 97,000</u>
Imports from Canada (1980)	Dairy produce, eggs	
	and honey	\$ 390,000
	Drilling, excavating,	
	mining machinery	\$ 224,000
	Apparel and apparel	
	accessories	\$ 97,000
	Other	\$1,233,000
	<u>Total*</u>	<u>\$1,944,000</u>

* Included within this total are the figures for Botswana and Lesotho.

Note: n.a. indicates information not available.

Sources: World Development Report 1981, published by the World Bank.
Atlaseco faits et chiffres 1981/82, published by Le Nouvel
Observateur.
Population and Vital Statistics, published by the United Nations.
1981 World Population Data Sheet, published by the Population
Reference Bureau Inc.
Various publications of the Government of Canada.

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